

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 SCA-01 SY-05

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R 191445Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9226

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC CO

SUBJ: W/W ELIZABETH ROGOW

REF: BOGOTA 4166

1. THE SAGA OF ELIZABETH ROGOW HAS HOPEFULLY COME TO A CLOSE AFTER SIX WEEKS OF A COURT BATTLE DURING WHICH HER MOTHER MRS. JEAN ROGOW ATTEMPTED TO GAIN LEGAL CUSTODY OF HER ADULT DAUGHTER IN ORDER TO TAKE HER BACK TO THEIR HOME IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. ON JUNE 13 THE FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT PENAL JUDGE ACQUITTED MRS. HANNA LOWE OF THE CHARGES OF KIDNAPPING BROUGHT AGAINST HER BY MRS. ROGOW. THE OCTOGENARIAN HEAD OF LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE NEW TESTAMENT FELLOWSHIP HAD BEEN ACCUSED BY MRS. ROGOW OF HOLDING ELIZABETH UNDER HER MENTAL CONTROL.

3. ELIZABETH REMAINED IN A PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC (SEE REFTTEL) FROM MAY 5 UNTIL JUNE 10 WHEN SHE LEFT UNDER UNCLEAR CIRCUMSTANCES. THE LOCAL PRESS, WHICH HAD CONTINUED TO GIVE WIDE COVERAGE TO THE CASE, REPORTED THAT ELIZABETH HAD ESCAPED FROM THE CLINIC. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY MRS. LOWE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OF HER YOUNG FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS, CALLED IN PERSON ON CONSOFF TO INFORM THAT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT ASSISTED ELIZABETH IN LEAVING THE CLINIC, THEY HAD INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT ELIZABETH WAS WELL AND "SAFE". MRS. LOWE ALLEGED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF

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ELIZABETH'S WHEREABOUTS. SHE ADDED THAT ELIZABETH HAD NOT

ESCAPED AS REPORTED BY THE PRESS, BUT HAD LEFT THE CLINIC WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

4. FROM THE TIME OF ELIZABETH'S ARREST BY THE DAS IN CALI AND SUBSEQUENT REMOVAL TO BOGOTA, EMBASSY MAINTAINED A NEUTRAL POSTURE BUT FOLLOWED CASE VERY CLOSELY. BECAUSE ELIZABETH WAS KEPT IN THE CLINIC FOR AN UNREASONABLY LONG PERIOD, AGAINST HER WILL AND WITHOUT PROPER LEGAL COUNSEL (ATTORNEY FOR THE GROUP WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT HER ONLY ONCE) EMBASSY MADE INFORMAL REPRESENTATION TO OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL WHICH EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CASE AND KEPT EMBASSY APPRISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

5. MRS. ROGOW HAS NOT SOUGHT OUR ASSISTANCE AND TO DATE HAS NOT ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT ANY EMBASSY OFFICER. THEREFORE WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER MRS. ROGOW HAS GIVEN UP THE FIGHT OR IF SHE INTENDS TO PURSUE OTHER AVENUES TO ACCOMPLISH HER OBJECTIVE.
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